THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) Five Indian nationals were killed in Hargeisa, Northern Somalia in the fighting between Government Forces and the Somali National Movement fighters in June, 1988.

(c) In cooperation with the local administration and the UNDP, the Indian Embassy arranged for the evacuation of Indian national from Hargeisa. They were flown to Mogadiscio and have been accommodated with families living there. According to our information there are now no Indian nationals in Hargeisa except for one teacher who has opted to stay on there.

Commissioning of Betwa Dam Project

1185. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commissioning of inter-State Betwa Dam Project on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh has been delayed by six years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for early commissioning of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main reasons are constraint in availability of funds which are to be contributed by the two participating States and shortage of personnel which are to be drawn from the two State Governments. Both the State Governments have been pursuaded to contribute the funds and also depute personnel to the Board.

Purchase of Weapons by Shri Lanka from Pakistan

1186. SHRI HARI SINGH:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 13th June, 1988 that Sri Lanka is proposing to purchase heavy weaponry items worth about dollar 150 million from Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no specific information on the accuracy of this press report. However, Government are aware that Sri Lanka has been acquiring military supplies as well as military training facilities from several sources, including Pakistan. Government have been monitoring such developments closely in the context of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Finalisation of Vamshadhara Project Phase-II

1187. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI Y. SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to convene the meeting of the Chief Ministers of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh to finalise the Vamshadhara Project Phase-II;

(b) what are the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this delay adversely affects the efforts to bring more hectares of land under irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) At present, there is no proposal to convene a meeting at Chief Ministers' level.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Denial of promotions to Assistant Commissioner in KVS

1188. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government employees can be deprived of promotion on the ground that Departmental Promotion Committee could not meet for the whole of the year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for which some Assistant Commissioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan were not granted promotions on this count?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) According to the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Departmental Promotion Committees (DPC) should be convened at regular annual intervals to draw up panels for promotion for vacancies occuring during the course of a year. Regular promotions to higher posts are made only after the panels drawn by the Departmental Promotion Committees are approved by the appointing authorities. The existing instructions in the matter lay adequate emphahise on the timely holding of the DPC. Instructions have also been issued to the effect that in the event of bunching of yacancies of selection posts pertaining to more than a year due to non-holding of DPCs in particular year(s), year-wise panels should be drawn up so that officers promoted against vacancies relating to previous year(s) are placed senior to those promoted against vacancies in subsequent years.

(c) A post of Deputy Commissioner (Training) to which Assistant Commissioners of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan are eligible for promotion fell vacant on 1-6-1988. The Departmental Promotion Committee will meet shortly to give its recommendations in this regard.

Visit of Prime Minister to China

1189. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any date has been fixed or being fixed for the visit of the Prime Minister to China; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) the number of official or non-official delegations from both India and China visiting each others country during the last 2 years; and

(c) what was the impressions or conclusions conveyed by Shri Jyoti Basu, Chief Minister of West Bengal with regard to his visit to China, when he met Prime Minister recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement comprising lists of delegations to and from China in 1987